

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DECLINE LANDS FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 5.3 PERCENT

NASHVILLE – Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips announces a preliminary unemployment rate of 5.3 percent for February. This is an improvement from the revised January rate of 5.4 percent. February's U.S. preliminary rate is 4.7 percent, matching Tennessee with a tenth of a percentage point decline from the previous month.

Over the past year, Tennessee's rate has increased by six-tenths of a percentage point while the national rate has declined by two-tenths.

"When you see the unemployment tick up over a period of time, that always catches your attention," said TDLWD Commissioner Burns Phillips. "But when you look at the statistics, they tell an interesting story about Tennessee."

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

February, 2017 preliminary

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Month ago		Year ago	
					Jan. '17 rev.	Feb. '16	Rate	Change
Seasonally Adjusted								
UNITED STATES	160,056,000	152,528,000	7,528,000	4.7%	4.8%	-0.1%	4.9%	-0.2%
TENNESSEE	3,196,200	3,026,500	169,700	5.3%	5.4%	-0.1%	4.7%	0.6%
Not Seasonally Adjusted								
UNITED STATES	159,482,000	151,594,000	7,887,000	4.9%	5.1%	-0.2%	5.2%	-0.3%
TENNESSEE	3,168,000	3,011,800	156,200	4.9%	5.7%	-0.8%	4.6%	0.3%

Total nonfarm employment increased with 8,300 additional jobs from January to February. Education/health services, mining/logging/construction, and manufacturing experienced the largest employment increases.

"As the number of people looking for jobs across the state grows faster than the hiring process, we have really focused on preparing those job seekers for employment with key resources like Jobs4TN.gov and our American Job Centers," explained Commissioner Phillips.

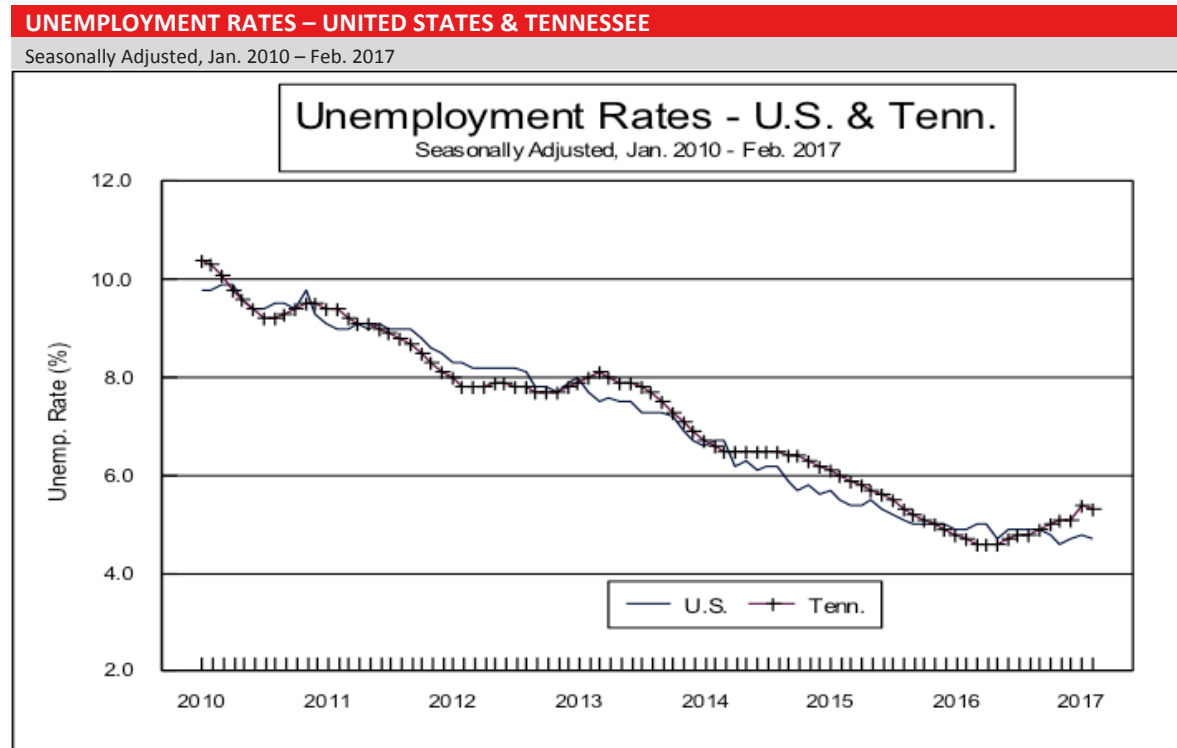
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT – BUSINESS SURVEY

(numbers in thousands)

	February 2016	January 2016 rev.	February 2017 pre.	Annual Change:		Monthly Change:	
				Feb 2016 to Feb. 2017	Jan. 2017 to Feb. 2017		
Total nonfarm	2,944.8	3,002.6	3,010.9	66.1		8.3	
Mining/logging/construction	119.0	124.0	127.3	8.3		3.3	
Manufacturing	340.2	346.1	348.3	8.1		2.2	
Trade/transportation/utilities	614.5	625.6	624.9	10.4		-0.7	
Information	45.5	45.2	45.6	0.1		0.4	
Financial activities	150.5	154.1	154.6	4.1		0.5	
Professional/business services	401.3	414.0	410.5	9.2		-3.5	
Educational services	59.5	56.1	60.2	0.7		4.1	
Health care/social assistance	361.8	365.8	366.8	5.0		1.0	
Leisure/hospitality	316.4	328.1	328.5	12.1		0.4	
Government	426.1	432.5	433.3	7.2		0.8	

According to the commissioner, "While these latest numbers may seem marginal, all the resources the state offers will really pay off in the long run, helping Tennesseans find work and lowering our unemployment rate."

Added to nonfarm employment were 66,100 jobs over the year. The largest increases occurred in leisure/hospitality, trade/transportation/utilities, and professional/business services.



The Economic Analysis and Labor Force Estimates are prepared by the Employment Security division's labor market information specialists. The division reports metrics and contextual information as it relates to employment, income, and population in Tennessee. Labor force topics are narrated in [monthly newsletters](#) and additional resources are available on [Jobs4TN.gov](#).

The county unemployment release for February 2017 will be published on Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. CT.

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